Rep. Rhodes on Impeachment

Text of a statement yesterday by Rep. John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.), House Minority Leader:

For me, this is a sad day. I admire Richard Nixon, for the many great things he has done for the people of America and the people of the world. I have no doubt whatsoever that the final analysis of history will be that few American Presidents did more for the solid advancement of world peace than Richard Nixon.

But the most important aspect of our entire system of government is equal justice under the law—the principle that no person—whether he be rich or poor, black or white, ordinary citizen or president—is above the law. Coverup of criminal activity and misuse of federal agencies can neither be condoned nor tolerated. And as long as we adhere as a nation to this principle, our nation will remain great and strong.

I have considered the evidence to the best of my ability. When the roll is called in the House of Representatives, I will vote "aye" on impeachment Article I. In addition, the new evidence made available yesterday has considerable bearing on my decision concerning Article II, a decision which I have not yet finalized.

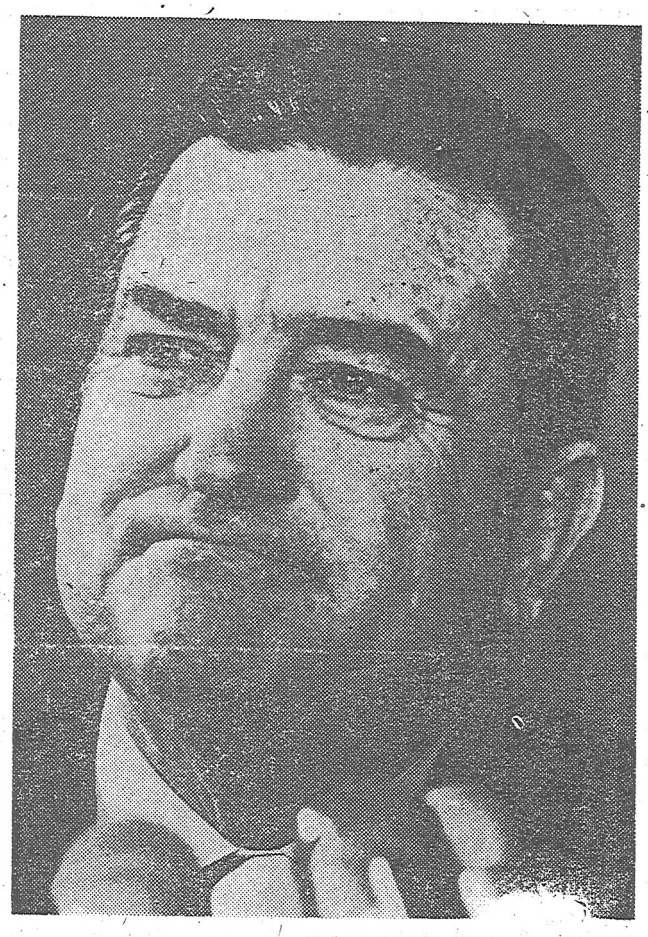
I make my judgment as a lawyer, a person with some acquaintance with the Constitution, and as a member of Congress from Arizona. Others may interpret the evidence differently. This requires a highly personal decision

I still believe that impeachment is not a party matter. It is strictly a matter of conscience. Thus, I have no intention of imposing my interpretation of the evidence on any other member of Congress. For a party leader to attempt to dictate a matter of individual conscience would be entirely ill-advised.

The past year has been a difficult period for the American people. However, we have come through it with our fundamental belief in justice and the law intact. As was said by President Dwight David Eisenhower:

> "America is great because America is good. And if America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

I have every confidence that America will remain both good and great.



By Larry Morris—The W... Post Foreign

Rep. Charles W. Sandman Jr. (D-N.J.), who defended Mr. Nixon during House Judiciary Committee hearings, urges President to resign during a press conference.